This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiomyopathy	Ryanodine receptor 2 (RyR2)	A study in mice suggests that preventing the leak of calcium through cardiac RyR2 channels could help treat muscular dystrophy-associated cardiac arrhythmias. In a mouse model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), pharmacologic treatment to inhibit calcium leakage through cardiac RyR2 channels significantly reduced variability of heart rate compared with vehicle treatment ($p < 0.05$). In the treated mice, heart rate variability was comparable to that of wild-type controls. Next steps include evaluating the effect of preventing the leak of calcium through RyR2 in larger animal models of DMD. SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.117 Published online Jan. 28, 2010	Patented; licensed to an undisclosed party	Fauconnier, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 28, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0908540107 Contact: Alain Lacampagne, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Montpellier, France e-mail: alain.lacampagne@inserm.fr